



Trump and Tories ramp up threat of new war in the Gulf >>Page 20

**SAY NO TO WAR
AGAINST IRAN**



Striking school students and Extinction Rebellion united in street protests >>Pages 4&5

**FIGHTING AGAINST
CLIMATE CHAOS**

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VICIOUS RACIST IN No.10

BOOT OUT

JOHNSON



FIGHTING BACK

All out strike to take contractors to the cleaners

CLEANERS AND catering staff at a government department are on all out strike for decent pay and conditions.

The members of the PCS union are fed up with poverty wages and terrible sick pay policies.

Having tried short strikes earlier this year they have now moved to hard-hitting action.

>>Page 17

TRUMP



**Resisting
the racist
US president**

DONALD TRUMP ordered hundreds of raids on suspected "illegal" migrants this month in a bid to spread fear.

His infamous border concentration camps are crammed full. But migrants and activists are putting up stiff resistance to his divide and rule plans.

>>Pages 10&11

ANTI-FASCISM

**Counter-demo
against 'Free
Tommy' march**

ACTIVISTS ARE preparing a vital counter-demonstration against supporters of jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson.

Tommy's thuggish friends plan to march in central London on Saturday 3 August.

It is important that they meet determined resistance.

>>Page 7



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'I will do everything in my power from my position to make sure that parliament blocks a Brexit without agreement'

Philip Hammond who then resigned from his position as chancellor

'Her aides would give punishment beatings to anyone who crossed her'

David Cameron's ex-spin doctor Craig Oliver on Theresa May's time in the Home Office

'Encouraging progress is being made in some areas'

The Crown Prosecution Service explains that 61 percent of police files have to be sent back to the Met because of serious errors and missing evidence

'We consider that national security could be compromised if public access is given'

We not allowed to see the planning permission for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's garden because it is top secret



No hostile environment for the super-rich immigrants

THE HOME Office is bending over backwards to attract a different class of person—millionaires.

This is in stark contrast with how the vast majority of migrants are treated.

About 1,000 a year have used the golden visa scheme since it was introduced in 2008.

Current rules say hopefuls have to demonstrate that they are worth at least £2 million and pledge to invest that sum in companies here.

If they keep their cash invested for five years, they receive indefinite leave to remain and can become a citizen a year later.

Legal and financial advisers were filmed by Channel Four boasting about their role in securing scores of "golden visas" for millionaire clients. They were also



The millionaires have their own rules

caught offering to omit sensitive details from immigration officials.

The British golden visa scheme—tier 1 of the points based immigration system—was designed to be one of the most attractive in the world.

When the scheme was set up, it was a deliberate shift of policy to favour the super-rich bankers, oligarchs and wealthy politicians.

The British fast-track scheme turned out to be far less onerous than many rival

programmes. The American EB-5 visa scheme is one example.

It allows wealthy overseas investors to gain permanent residence but only if they put £395,000 into a scheme that creates jobs in a rural or deprived district.

Applying for residency in return for investment was pioneered by Canada in the 1980s.

Malta applicants have to buy or lease property, invest money and contribute to a development fund.

Other countries at least take a proper bribe by charging a fee.

Here is the only place the loaded visa applicants do not actually part with any of their money. The prudent can watch their money grow in company shares, and then take their cash offshore again to avoid tax.

SHAMED TORY Andrew Griffiths has found God as he rebuilds his reputation following his sex-text expose.

The MP, who has now been inducted into the Pentecostal Church, resigned from government last year over thousands of text messages. He offered cash for sex images to two women.

Last week he urged foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt to protect Christians.



Andrew Griffiths

A HEATHROW security worker lost an employment tribunal case after a colleague posted a picture of a goliwig on Facebook. Oniel Forbes saw the picture and went off sick when next rostered with Deborah Stevens. His racial discrimination claim was rejected as her post was not made at work.

New nuclear plant will suck fish to their death

A NUCLEAR plant will suck in 130,000 litres of water a second along with vast numbers of fish.

The twin inlet tunnels stretching two miles out into the Severn estuary are so big that a double-decker bus could drive through them.

The system will cool a new nuclear power station being built at Hinkley Point in Somerset but it will kill up to 250,000 fish a day.

A 5mm mesh will be installed to prevent larger fish being swallowed but a number of environmental groups say many fish will be fatally injured when pressed against it. Small fish, eels and the fry of many species



will be sucked through the mesh and into the cooling system.

EDF claims the system will kill about 650,000 fish a year.

It has now asked to vary its original permits for the power station to allow it to remove an "acoustic fish deterrent".

It argues that the impact of the system on fish populations will still be "negligible".

Crossrail just keeps giving—to the bosses

CROSSRAIL managers continued to receive huge bonuses even as the chaotic £17.6 billion railway project was going "off track", MPs revealed.

The former chief executive of the east-west line through London was paid almost £1.6 million in salary and bonuses over two years.

The public accounts committee said that the payments were inappropriate.

Andrew Wolstenholme, chief executive from 2011-18, was paid a basic salary of £463,000 in 2016-17 and £477,000 in the year to April 2018, months before the



opening of the troubled project was delayed. He also received bonuses of £641,000 in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Sir Terry Morgan, the former Crossrail Ltd chairman who was asked to resign over the fiasco, was paid £250,000 a year.

The cost has risen from £14.8 billion to £17.6 billion since June last year.



Charlie Elphicke

Tory MP on sex assault charge

TORY MP Charlie Elphicke has been charged with sexually assaulting two women.

The 48 year old is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 6 September.

The MP for Dover was charged with three counts of sexual assault relating to two alleged victims on Monday, the Crown Prosecution Service said.

He is alleged to have attacked the first woman in 2007 and the second woman twice in 2016. Elphicke denies any wrongdoing.

Theresa May controversially restored the Tory whip to him last December, before she faced a vote of no confidence.

Cop buys porn on grieving family's TV

A POLICE officer has admitted buying pornography at the home of a dead child as he waited for the undertaker to arrive.

The officer was on duty alone when he used the family's Virgin television account and spent £25.96 on purchases.

Avi Maharaj, a PC in the Met, made four purchases while at the home and at least two of them were made when the child's body remained in the house.

He pled guilty to fraud. The fraud was discovered when the child's family saw the bill and realised the porn channel access had been bought on the day of the child's death. The cop inputted a generic PIN to the cable set-up which the family had not changed. This let him buy the porn using their account.

The Metropolitan Police said the officer is on restricted duties.



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Johnson takes helm of a stricken ship—sink it now

by CHARLIE KIMBER

BORIS JOHNSON was elected Tory leader on Tuesday, and immediately faced multiple crises.

The moment of personal triumph he has lusted for so strongly may be the forerunner to his deepest defeat.

Johnson beat his rival Jeremy Hunt by 92,153 votes to 46,656 votes in a ballot of Tory members.

In his typical blustering style Johnson said, “We are going to get Brexit done on 31 October and take advantage of all the opportunities it will bring with a new spirit of can do.”

“We are once again going to believe in ourselves, and like some slumbering giant we are going to rise and ping off the guy ropes of self doubt and negativity.”

But his arrogant confidence can’t solve a series of problems that could shatter him. There are immediate tests over Brexit (see page 5), the economy and Iran.

And he presides over a Tory party that has rarely had less unity and discipline.

Reported

If, as expected, the Liberal Democrats win the Brecon & Radnorshire by-election next week, the government’s working majority will be reduced to just three.

The Sunday Times newspaper reported that up to six Tory MPs are considering defecting to the Liberal Democrats if Johnson becomes prime minister.

Emphasising the Tory divisions, foreign minister Sir Alan Duncan resigned on Monday, the first of many anticipated departures.

Chancellor Philip Hammond said on Sunday that “I’m not going to be sacked, because I’m going to resign before we get to



Is Hammond for the chop or the hop?



ON MONDAY’S protest against the new Tory leadership

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

that point”. He, and others, said he would quit minutes after Theresa May’s final prime minister’s question time on Wednesday.

Hammond has been the chief enforcer of brutal austerity for the last three years. But he suggested last week that he is prepared to vote to bring down the government should Johnson push for a no-deal Brexit.

And top bosses will also do their best to break moves towards a no-deal Brexit that they

believe could harm their profits. A slow-motion “run on the pound” is already in place.

The value of the pound has fallen sharply since the 2016 referendum and the slide accelerated as no-deal looked more possible.

It’s time for resistance, not despair. We should fight on every front—against austerity, racism and inaction over climate change.

A protest called by the People’s Assembly took place on Monday against the new Tory leader. Around 200 people heard speakers including Labour MPs, columnist Owen Jones and Weyman Bennett from Stand Up To Racism denounce the Tory

policies that have wrecked lives—and will continue under Johnson.

Another protest was planned for Wednesday and then a rally for a general election called by the Labour Party for Thursday.

It is welcome that, at last, Labour has called for mobilisation on the streets. It should have happened much earlier as May’s rule spiralled downwards.

Much more will be needed to make the most of the Tories’ weakness.

What’s your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Swinson’s Liberal landslide

JO SWINSON was elected leader of the Liberal Democrats on Monday. She took more than 47,000 votes while her rival Ed Davey secured 28,000.

The Lib Dems have never been radicals, and it’s certain they will be bosses’ B-team under Swinson.

As an employment minister in the 2010-15 coalition with the Tories, Swinson backed all the government’s austerity attacks and specifically attacked workers’ rights.

She introduced charges of up to £1,200 to take out an employment tribunal case,

emboldening bosses to harass and sack their workers.

The next year Swinson said zero hour contracts were a “useful tool for flexibility in employment”.

She also told the Low Pay Commission to take Britain’s “stagnant” economy into account when setting the rate for the minimum wage as the government suggested it might be frozen or even cut.

Swinson pushed through changes to Tupe transfer regulations which apply when workers are privatised. These made it easier to cuts pay and conditions.



Jo Swinson



School students have already walked out

Global Climate Strike for Future Friday 20 September



IN BRIEF

Challenging baseline tests

A GROUP of parents was set to go to court on Wednesday over planned baseline tests for four and five year olds.

The tests will see children tested within weeks of starting reception in schools that have opted in to a pilot. Parents will not be informed.

London’s High Court will decide whether to allow a judicial review of the decision to pilot the tests before expanding them across England.

Northern Irish abortion legal

MPS LAST week voted to legalise abortion and same sex marriage in Northern Ireland. The bill will become law by 21 October unless the Northern Ireland Executive has been re-established by that date.

Women currently facing criminal trials will have their prosecutions dropped from 22 October.

The move is a big step forward for women’s and LGBT+ people’s rights.

New Universal Credit rip-off

BENEFIT CLAIMANTS who move unnecessarily onto Universal Credit (UC) are losing thousands of pounds a year.

An MPs’ committee said the Department for Work and Pensions is failing to inform the claimants that they don’t have to switch to UC.

Meanwhile work and pensions secretary Amber Rudd said on Monday that up to ten thousand claimants will be moved onto UC over the summer.

This is part of “managed migration”.

Protesting for Shukri

HUNDREDS OF people joined a protest calling for justice for Shukri Abdi in London last week. Shukri, a Somali refugee, died in the River Irwell in Bury last month.

Her family said she had been repeatedly bullied at school and that police are failing to properly investigate.

One protester, Caraweelo Ali, said, “Her death and the events surrounding it show that a black Muslim girl doesn’t matter.”



Extinction Rebellion and school strike unite

School students and climate activists marched together after a week of occupations, reports **Sarah Bates**

FIVE DAYS of defiant action culminated in scenes of unity between school climate strikers and Extinction Rebellion (XR) last Friday.

The day marked the sixth “youth strike for the climate” in Britain—part of the global Fridays For Future movement of millions of school students.

Around 300 strikers braved pouring rain to march in London. The action attracted some who had never struck before. Claudia told Socialist Worker, “This is the first time I’ve been on strike.

“I came because I feel like I don’t know that much about climate change and I wanted to learn more. I’m interested in things like veganism too.

Scary

“It’s scary what might happen if climate change gets worse. I think a lot of things need to change.”

XR’s “Summer Uprising” blocked roads in Cardiff, Leeds, Bristol, Glasgow and London. Activists at each occupation organised talks, cultural events, training and direct action.

Around 300 XR activists marched from their camp in Millennium Green park, near Waterloo, to join the school students in Parliament

BACK STORY

Extinction Rebellion activists blocked roads in Cardiff, Bristol, Leeds, Glasgow and London last week

- Big, colourful boats blocked major roads in each of the cities
- Their actions focused around XR’s demand to “act now” on the climate and ecological crisis facing the planet

- The same week retired Met Police top cop Richard Walton recommended a crackdown on XR, with more prosecutions

Square. Peter from Wandsworth, south London, had taken part in activity throughout the five-day Summer Uprising.

“I volunteered for a night shift at the camp because my years as a postal worker taught me it’s hard to get people to do those shifts,” he said.

He told Socialist Worker that his involvement with XR began during April’s wildly successful International Rebellion.

“I only went down to Oxford Circus to go and take photos but within ten minutes I was lying underneath the ‘tell the truth’ boat,” he said.



SCHOOL STRIKERS march against climate chaos in central London last Friday

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell joined the activists last week at the “Polly Higgins” boat parked outside the Old Vic theatre.

Cops banned the boat from joining the demonstration in case activists locked themselves to it.

McDonnell told Socialist Worker, “When XR started I was overjoyed—the direct action has raised the profile of climate change. It helped us secure a resolution on climate emergency.

“The campaign has come under attack from the right, which is a reflection of the success of the campaign. Now it’s about how to translate that into action.

“The next zero carbon 2050 target needs to be brought forward—it’s not good enough.”

Other XR members are keen to get workers involved in the action. Alex came on the demonstration in his doctor’s scrubs and with a stethoscope around his neck.

“I’m wearing my doctor’s uniform because doctors read and act on evidence. Evidence shows we change things through mass civil disobedience,” he said.

“I don’t think the climate emergency has sunk in yet in my workplace. But the idea of workers taking action on 20 September is

fantastic—it’s what everyone should be doing.”

And in Bristol, similar scenes saw XR—which had staged a five-day occupation in the city—and school strikers march together through the city centre.

Bristol was the biggest event, with around 1,000 people taking part at some points.

During the week activists locked themselves to a pink bathtub blocking the M32 motorway.

Rebels in London blocked the entrance to a construction site of the new tideway sewer being built around the Thames.

It’s only going to get hotter

BRITAIN WAS set to experience a blistering heatwave this week, backing up new evidence of a heating climate.

A study by the Crowther Lab think tank indicates that in 30 years London will have a similar climate to Barcelona.

The “Cities of the future” report says that temperatures are set to rise by 3.5

degrees in summer and 4.7 degrees in winter.

That will cause massive damage in Britain—it will be life extinguishing elsewhere.

Alongside this dramatic temperature rise, London is expected to undergo regular extreme weather including droughts and flooding. And the changes

will be so extreme it means about a fifth of cities globally will experience conditions not currently seen anywhere on the globe. Ecologist Tom Crowther said, “We are absolutely not prepared for this. Planning for climate change needs to start yesterday. The sooner it starts, the less the impact will be.”

Keep focus on the streets

LAST WEEK’S school strikes were smaller than previous ones, and the XR occupations pulled in less activists than April’s International Rebellion.

Yet they are incredibly inspiring movements that have already broken through the political paralysis and changed the entire conversation on climate change.



Partly lower turnout can be attributed to bad weather, holiday season and exhaustion from activists. But it also highlights how, when focus is pulled away from action, it can divert people from the streets.

Labour and the Greens, while not visible on demonstrations, have fought to bring schools strikers behind the banner of a “Green New Deal”.

The focus on radical reforms can be used to suggest that it’s parliament, rather than action that will secure victory. The 20 September workers’ action, and XR’s International Rebellion in October, will be a critical moment for both movements. Everyone should throw themselves into helping make it a success.

Workers gear up to take action on 20 September

GROUPS OF workers are throwing themselves into organising action for a global strike for the climate on 20 September.

Organising meetings have started to bring together workers and students in the fight against the climate and ecological crisis.

A meeting in Camden, central London, brought together reps from the Unison and Bectu unions, workers at Soas university, the National Theatre, Camden Trades Council and climate strikers.

It resolved to march from workplace to workplace then join a rally in Parliament Square.

The Bristol XR Summer Uprising occupation hosted a climate strike organising meeting on Tuesday of last week. There was a good turnout from workers from the University of West England and of NEU education union members. The meeting also heard from school strikers.

Activists in York are planning for lunchtime and evening rallies for 20 September.

Jane Loftus, CWU union

president, told the Marxism Festival 2019 earlier this month that postal workers were debating action. “We want gate meetings that are visible that day,” she said.

In Tower Hamlets, east London, council workers in the Unison union are preparing to stage action during the strike day.

The Unison branch is also planning to write to mayor John Biggs about supporting workers on 20 September and putting a motion to September’s council meeting about support action.

Organising meetings are a crucial first step in making mass activity on 20 September a reality.

It’s not inevitable that there will be scenes of thousands of people pouring out of workplaces and onto the streets. It will require a tooth-and-nail fight from every activist until workers are out the door.

The historic strikes by teenagers show what can change when people fight back—but workers will be needed to win.

For details of some meetings visit bit.ly/ClimateStrikeMeetings

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

JOHNSON IS SET TO FAIL AS HE MIMICS MAY’S PLAN

BREXIT WILL be Boris Johnson’s first and unavoidable test.

He pretends that a belief in “national rebirth” and a few Latin phrases will be enough to sweep away all the obstacles. It’s an illusion.

Almost the only serious pledge Johnson made during his campaign was that Britain has to leave the European Union (EU) on 31 October, with or without a deal.

That gives very little time from when parliament returns from its lavish summer break on 3 September.

Johnson half hopes that the EU leaders will crumble and offer concessions that he can proclaim to be a great victory. They have shown no sign of such retreats.

If a sellable deal isn’t on offer, Johnson might hope to let the weeks pass and just let a no-deal Brexit happen.

But there’s a majority in parliament against that.

And there’s also a majority against “proroguing” (suspending) parliament to stop MPs blocking no-deal. Johnson has bitter enemies among the Tories who back the neoliberal, racist EU.

Many will be prepared to vote

against him. But in addition he can’t wholly rely on the Brexit fanatics who shattered May’s deal.

An article in the Mail on Sunday newspaper said, “Allies insist Boris has now obtained clarity on his preferred Brexit strategy.

“But it isn’t the full-throated, turbo-charged no-deal approach his cabinet opponents fear and the ultras long for.”

The article continues, “‘The reality is Boris is going to put some bright lipstick on May’s deal,’ said one MP.

“‘He’s then going to tie delivery of Brexit to a huge regional investment package. And he’s going to say, ‘Back this or you lose the concession, you lose Brexit and

“**The reality is Boris is going to put some bright lipstick on May’s Brexit deal**

MEDIA ABUSE HYPOCRISY

PETER BORNSHIN suffered sexual abuse while in the care of social services in the early 1980s. He was tormented by his experiences at the Grafton Close Children’s Home, west London.

Richmond Council paid Peter compensation for the abuse.

John Singmore, the deputy manager of Grafton Close, abused him.

He died awaiting trial for the abuse, facing a conspiracy to commit buggery charge, which was linked to taking children to Elm

Guest House. His friend, Father Tony McSweeney, was jailed for three years.

Children were taken by them to Elm Guest House to be abused by the rich and powerful.

The police, politicians, prime ministers and the security services all covered up child abuse by Cyril Smith MP, Peter Morrison MP, the senior spy Peter Hayman and others.

All of this was being investigated before Carl Beech made his false allegations of a Westminster child

abuse ring that he was found guilty of making up this week.

The newspapers that put the story of Beech on the front pages have constantly ignored real stories of abuse. They have ignored the genuine evidence of state cover-ups given at the ongoing institutional child abuse inquiry.

Historical child abuse cases are complex. But the verdict in the Beech case should not be used to create a climate that will stop other abuse victims coming forward.

Extinction Rebellion Uprising Festivals

Cambridge Sat 31 Aug
Manchester Sat 31 Aug - Sun 1 Sep
Aberdeen Sun 1 Sep
Devon (Tapeley Park)
Fri 6 - Sun 8 Sep
North Wales (Borth)
Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sep
Brighton Sat 14 - Sun 15 Sep
International Rebellion
Mon 7 - Sat 19 October



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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



The deep roots of the neoliberal crisis

THE CRISIS of the neoliberal order accelerates by the week. Donald Trump is running for re-election on a mixture of aggressive racism and branding the Democratic Party as dominated by the “Red Army” of the “Squad” of four progressive Congresswomen.

Ursula von der Leyen, the candidate of the neoliberal centre for president of the European Commission, only scraped through with the support of the Five Star movement in Italy and right wing parties in central and eastern Europe.

Neoliberal globalisation still has its defenders. Martin Wolf, the Financial Times newspaper’s chief commentator, wrote an apology for what he called “sane globalism” last week. But he identifies the problem as essentially political, represented by the usual suspects—Trump and Brexit.

But the crisis of globalisation has much deeper roots, which stem from the financial crash of 2007-8 and the Great Recession that followed. Various indicators have suggested this economic upheaval ushered in what The Economist magazine called a few months ago “slowbalisation”.

One of the main signs has been the slowdown in the growth of international trade. At the apogee of neoliberal globalisation international trade grew twice as fast as global national income. This reflected the expansion of global supply chains or, more academically, “global value chains” (GVCs) that have been transforming production into a transnationally integrated process.

The change since the crash was discussed in a very interesting piece, also in the Financial Times last week, by Wolf’s colleague Gillian Tett.

She wrote, “At the start of the previous decade, global trade was growing at almost 8 percent a year, twice the pace of growth in gross domestic product. This year, however, the World Trade Organisation expects trade to rise by a mere 2.6 percent—the same as projected global GDP growth.”

Tett pointed out that this is widely blamed on Trump’s protectionism, in particular his trade war with China. But she cited a study by Hyun Song Shin, chief economist of the Bank for International Settlements, that contradicts this.

Frenzy

Shin showed that “between 2000 and 2008 there was a frenzy of activity in global supply chains. Indeed gross exports relative to GDP exploded by a cumulative 16 percent, due to intense supply chain activity between China and the West.” Moreover “while gross exports recovered in 2009, they have never returned to anything like the pre-2007 figure”. Shin’s explanation highlights the role of finance in the development of the global supply chains.

He said, “Companies need hefty amounts of working capital to run their supply chains, and about two-thirds of this typically comes from their own resources, with the other third coming from bank and non-bank finance.

“During the pre-2007 credit boom it was easy for companies to find working capital and trade finance.

“But, since then, the crisis banks have reined this in. This is partly because post-crisis regulations have made it more costly for Western banks to supply such funding, but also because banks’ resources have been hit by the debilitating impact of ultra-low interest rates.”

This is a fascinating insight into how the financial system—in particular banks and shadow banks in the US and Europe—didn’t simply spin its own speculative bubbles but drew production and trade into them.

As Tett put it, “The research suggests that the pre-2007 credit bubble not only created a house price boom, but also helped create a trade and GVC bubble, too.”

And she concluded, “Insofar as this bubble has now burst, it seems unrealistic to expect that the world will recreate that global trade surge anytime soon—even if, by some miracle, the US and China suddenly end the trade war.”

Another way of putting it would be to say that the global economic and financial crisis of 2007-8 and after broke neoliberal globalisation. The political upsets of the past few years represent the playing out of the underlying economic contradictions.

This means that it’s important to mobilise against the racism of Trump and his Mini-Mes such as Boris Johnson. But we need also to develop an economic alternative to neoliberalism, and indeed to capitalism itself.

CROSSLEY MANOR school in Merseyside, run by Elysium Healthcare (below), faced closure this week

Parents furious over closure of Merseyside special school

by SADIE ROBINSON

THE CLOSURE of a special school in Merseyside has plunged vulnerable children into despair—and put their health at risk.

Crossley Manor school in Rainhill caters for children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

The school is run by Elysium Healthcare. It was set to close on Wednesday—yet parents were only informed on 17 June.

Donna and Steve’s 11 year old son has autism and severe epilepsy. Donna told Socialist Worker, “Elysium wanted the school to fail because it can make more money if the site is a secure inpatient unit.

“Private companies only care about money.”

Steve added, “I think Elysium wanted to let the dust settle because there had been objections to having a secure mental health facility there.

Underhand

“Elysium says it’s sorry the school is closing—it’s not sorry at all. Everything has been underhand.”

Sarah’s 11 year old son is so distressed at the news that he hasn’t been able to return to school. “He’s been at home for three weeks,” Sarah told Socialist Worker.

“He’s been passed from pillar to post all his life. Now

he’s thinking, ‘This is another place that doesn’t want me—it’s my fault.’”

Crossley Manor had helped children to thrive.

“When my son was in mainstream, his behaviour could be terrible,” said Donna.

“Since being at Crossley Manor he’s been so much happier. He’s achieving and has gained a lot of confidence.”

For Sarah, this is why the closure will harm the children so badly. “He was settling in,” she said. “He thought he’d be there until he was 19. He’s

‘Get private firms out’

WHEN DONNA contacted the Department for Education (DfE), she was told that it had “no power to intervene” as Crossley Manor is an independent school. “Independent schools are free to make their own decisions,” the DfE said.

“This includes freedoms to decide to close the school.”

Steve said, “It is infuriating. With private companies, there’s zero protection.”

Now Donna wants to get private firms out of special schools altogether. “I want a

change in the law,” she said. “Why let private companies open schools when they can just close them?” Sarah agreed. “I don’t think private companies should be able to open special educational needs schools,” she said. “The idea that they put service users at the forefront of everything they do is bollocks.”

been treated quite badly in previous placements. So it took him a lot of work to get that established relationship bond. Now it’s been ripped away.”

Steve added, “Elysium must have known about this well before they told us.

Nonsense

“It is supposed to care about health, but it’s all marketing nonsense. It has just destroyed a load of children’s and staff’s lives.”

Parents and children face months of uncertainty as they search for new placements.

Donna explained how one option is a school that may not be suitable and is further from the A&E, putting him at risk.

Sarah said children face summer holidays full of anxiety and worry.

“They’re going to see their brothers and sisters preparing to go back to school and they won’t be,” she said.

“They won’t have uniforms to go and buy.

“Opening a school on the site was never about the children. It’s all about money.

“I wrote to the CEO and said my child might be a walking pound sign to you, but to me and the staff he is a lot more than that.”



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Protest at nasty Nazi Robinson's fan club

Anti-racists are to take to the streets to oppose supporters of Tommy Robinson in London next month

ANTI-RACISTS WILL protest against Nazi Tommy Robinson and his racist supporters in London on Saturday 3 August.

Robinson was jailed earlier this month after being found guilty of contempt of court. He had filmed and broadcast outside a child sexual exploitation trial in Leeds last year, despite reporting restrictions, and confronted defendants outside court.

His actions put the trial at risk of collapse. Robinson's supporters have called a "Free Tommy" protest in central London on Saturday 3 August. They are also threatening protests elsewhere, including in Sunderland on Friday of this week and Manchester on Saturday.

Key Robinson supporter Danny Tommo tweeted, "On Saturday the 3rd of August 2019, there will be (sic) a "MASS DEMO" in central London."

Allow

Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) has called a counter-protest. "We can't allow Nazis to march through our streets unopposed," it said.

Many previous SUTR protests have outnumbered Robinson supporters. And an anti-racist campaign in the North West of England helped to stop Robinson from being elected as an MEP in this year's European elections.

A "Free Tommy" protest held outside Belmarsh prison, soon after Robinson was jailed, attracted less than 100 people. But as SUTR warned, "The far right here may be on the back foot after Robinson's humiliations, but it has not gone away."

Meanwhile other right wingers are trying to capitalise on the crisis gripping the ruling class. Nigel Farage's Brexit Party has announced a "conference tour" in September.

It follows a 5,000-strong rally in Birmingham last month and kicks off in Colchester on 2 September.

The Brexit Party is led by wealthy people, bosses and ex-Tories.

It is not anti-establishment. But it

BACK STORY

Nazi Tommy Robinson was jailed earlier this month

- He had filmed and broadcast outside a child sexual exploitation trial in Leeds despite reporting restrictions

- His actions could have caused the trial to collapse, and he was found guilty of contempt of court

- Robinson's racist supporters have called a 'Free Tommy' protest in central London on Saturday 3 August

- Anti-racists will hold a counter-protest

pretends to be on the side of ordinary people to try and win more support. Its "Invest in the Rest" campaign pledges to invest £200 billion in "rebuilding Britain's regions".

"In September the establishment parties will be talking to themselves at their elitist conferences," it said. "By contrast the Brexit Party will be taking our conference tour around the country. There is a Britain outside London. It's time to Invest in the Rest."

The likes of the Brexit Party are encouraged by the Tories, who are using racism to try and divert attention away from their crisis. The victims of their "hostile environment" are vulnerable people.

The Home Office rejected 310 applications for leave to remain in Britain from child victims of trafficking between April 2017 and the end of 2018. Figures obtained by BuzzFeed News also showed that it rejected a further 65 asylum claims from victims over the same period.

Vicious policies towards migrants and refugees are fuelling the likes of the Brexit Party and Robinson. We have to resist them—and fight to get the racist Tories out.



On other pages...

Resisting the racism in Trump's America >>Pages 10&11



SUPPORTERS OF Tommy Robinson outside his court case earlier this month

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

LABOUR

Jeremy Corbyn faces more attacks for supporting Palestinian rights

LABOUR PARTY leader Jeremy Corbyn is facing a mounting challenge against him from right wing MPs. They attacked him in parliament on Monday evening, following a meeting of the shadow cabinet that afternoon which discussed accusations of antisemitism against the left.

The right claim that the left's support for Palestinians and opposition to Israel means that it is uniquely open to antisemitic ideas.

The latest assault comes after a BBC Panorama documentary shown in July claimed Corbyn's leadership has encouraged antisemitism because of his support for Palestinians.

The Guardian newspaper published an advert signed by more than 60 Labour peers last week accusing Corbyn of encouraging antisemitism.

The Jewish Leadership Council—which explicitly links antisemitism to opposition to Israel—wrote to shadow cabinet ministers last week. It urged them to take action against Corbyn. "As members of the shadow cabinet, you now face a very difficult and unavoidable

decision in which inaction will signal your support for what has happened and what will follow," it said.

Mike Katz of the Jewish Labour Movement (JLM)—which cites support for Israel as part of its central objects and values—also sent a letter to the shadow cabinet on the same day.

It alluded to the smear that Corbyn's leadership encouraged antisemitism.

"Why do left conspiratorial antisemitism and cranks now regard Labour as their natural political home?" it asked.

Labour launched a webpage of training material last Sunday in response to the right's accusations. An email in the name of Jeremy Corbyn, sent to party members and supporters said that "anti-Jewish bigotry has reared its head in our movement."

The website and leaflet rightly warned against antisemitic conspiracy theories.

It described Zionism—Israel's founding ideology that

justified the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in 1948—as simply "Jewish national self-determination in a Jewish state".

But it also correctly said, "That does not mean limiting legitimate criticism of the Israeli state or its policies or diluting support for the Palestinian people's struggle for justice, their own state, and the rights of refugees and their descendants."

Rights

It added, "Arguing for one state with rights for all Israelis and Palestinians is not antisemitic, but calling for the removal of Jews from the region is. Anti-Zionism is not in itself antisemitic and some Jews are not Zionists."

Yet the JLM said the material "simply isn't going to be enough". When Labour's general secretary Jennie Formby asked the JLM to comment on the material, Katz threw it back in her face.

"If they think we are going to mark their overdue homework for them then they have another thing coming," he said. The right won't be satisfied. The only way to counter them is with a clear defence of the right to support Palestinians and criticise the state of Israel.



Protests in Puerto Rico after leaks

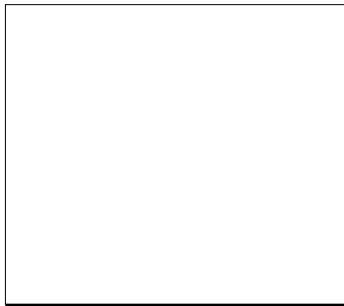
PROTESTS HAVE been taking place in Puerto Rico following over 300 pages of leaked message threads between governor Ricardo Rosello and other top officials.

Puerto Rico is effectively a colony of the US in the Caribbean.

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets there demanding Rosello's resignation. He has refused, but said that he will not seek re-election in 2020.

However, protests are set to continue. And Rosello is facing impeachment.

Comments made in the messages include threats of violence towards female politicians. There were also homophobic attacks on Puerto



A protester in Puerto Rico

Rican singer Ricky Martin.

Martin and other famous Puerto Rican artists have added their voices to the protests, speaking at rallies in San Juan.

Protests come as Puerto Rico is trying to rebuild after Hurricane Maria in September 2017.

The leaked messages included jokes about the deaths caused by the disaster.

These messages have uncovered a deep dissatisfaction among ordinary people.

There are also concerns over corruption in the Puerto Rican government, and growing national debt.

Protesters have said that they will not leave the streets until Rosello resigns.

FIGURE IT OUT

44 percent—how many people in Puerto Rico were living below the poverty line in 2017

10 percent—the rate of unemployment in Puerto Rico

40 percent—the fall in school enrolment in Puerto Rico over the last decade as poorer children have to care for siblings

Rising opposition to deal with the Sudanese army

by CHARLIE KIMBER

THERE IS increasing rejection of a rotten deal signed by some opposition leaders with the murderous Sudanese military.

Last week a coalition of parties, the National Consensus Forces (NCF), added its voice to those who have come out against the agreement.

The NCF includes the Sudanese Communist Party. It said in a statement that the deal “goes towards granting power to the military junta and does not meet the demands of the revolution, including a civilian-led government”.

It also criticised the failure to provide for an international commission of inquiry into crimes committed throughout former president Omar al Bashir's 30-year rule until he was removed in April.

The agreement sets up a sovereign council consisting of 11 members to rule the country. Five will be from the military, five will be civilians. The 11th member will be agreed by the two sides.

But for the next 21 months the president will be from the military, and elections won't be held for more than three years.

Armed

The deal has already been rejected by armed groups in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile. Some local resistance committees have also said it does not go far enough.

The Sudanese Journalists Network, a trade union, said last week that the agreement was “set up by the military head of the former security committee of al Bashir to dispel all the dreams of our people without creating a new reality”.

HONG KONG

Fury after masked attack

PROTESTERS IN Hong Kong are furious after police failed to stop an attack on them at a train station in Yuen Long on Sunday.

Dozens of men in masks attacked people, including many anti-government protesters, with wooden and metal sticks.

Some 45 people were injured and police had failed to make any arrests by Monday morning.

Police commissioner Lo said protests were behind the lack of police response because it meant “our manpower is stretched”.

Protesters suspect the attacks were an attempt to undermine their movement.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie

Lam, condemned the attacks—but first condemned protests that took place earlier on Sunday.

Hundreds of thousands of marchers demanded a complete withdrawal of the extradition bill, which would allow extraditions to mainland China.

They also called for independent inquiries into the police use of force against demonstrations and the unconditional release of all arrested prisoners.

Later police attacked protesters occupying a road in Sheung Wan with rubber bullets and tear gas.

PROTESTERS RESISTING military rule in Sudan earlier this month

It said the agreement “strengthens the power of the junta, that is made up of members of the security committee of the al Bashir regime and that tries to usurp power by stealing the efforts, sweat and blood of the revolution”.

Security forces fired tear gas at hundreds of demonstrators as they marched in the capital Khartoum last week. It underlined how little the military has changed.

Marchers were commemorating the hundreds killed during the

seven months of protests that have rocked the country.

The only backing for the deal last week came from the butcher of Egypt, president Abdel Fattah el Sisi.

The Forces of Freedom of Change, the main opposition group is now under heavy pressure to press for further concessions from the military.

But it's not details that are the problem—it's the whole approach. The blood-soaked military has to be

removed, not bargained with.

The military will never agree to measures that will remove its power or open it to full accountability for its crimes.

The key task is to restart the mass strikes and protests, and to build the democratic bodies thrown up during the revolt.

On other pages...

Say no to war against Iran
>>>Page 20

ISRAEL

State smashes up homes

ISRAEL BEGAN major demolition of houses in East Jerusalem and the West Bank this week.

Hundreds of Israeli police and soldiers moved in on the buildings—including some 72 homes—early on Monday.

The buildings are in a neighbourhood that straddles East Jerusalem and the West Bank, which have both been under Israeli military occupation since 1967.

The Palestinian Authority, which governs in the West Bank, had approved their construction. But Israel said the buildings were too close to its separation barrier—the vast wall it uses to pen Palestinians in.

A home is destroyed in East Jerusalem

Shame on the BBC

LAST WEEK'S Panorama TV programme "Sex Education—The LGBT+ debate in Schools" was a disgrace.

Primary schools in Birmingham have come under attack from some parents because they are creating an acceptable learning environment for all students, including LGBT+ students, by using the "No Outsiders" programme.

Every child has the right to an education where the diversity of our world is reflected and understood and every child is free to learn without prejudice.

Instead of reflecting this, more air time was given over to bigots who were organising the protests.

A Catholic teacher from Scotland explained how she wanted to disrupt the curriculum in schools where LGBT+ inclusive lessons are taught. Others misrepresented "No Outsiders" as sexualising children. That is nonsense.

Worryingly, Panorama also identified areas where future protests might kick off, creating a sense of inevitability about them.

Tory Education minister Damien Hinds gave little support to the schools that he should be backing.

All this at a time when physical attacks on LGBT+ people have increased by 144 percent in the last five years.

That is why we need to build unity to defend LGBT+ inclusive education. We need to organise protests whenever LGBT+ people are attacked.

We can't let bigots steal our children's futures.

Mike Dance
North London



THE STEVE Bell 'IF' cartoon that the Guardian refused to print last week

We stand with Steve Bell against illiberal censorship

IN THE latest outburst of illiberal censorship on that liberal flagship, The Guardian newspaper has pulled two cartoons by the brilliant and long-serving left wing cartoonist Steve Bell.

The cartoons in question depict Tom Watson as the antisemitism finder general. Bravely hunting out tropes and fearlessly exposing stuff that doesn't exist.

At first sight it's difficult to fathom why these cartoons might be censored, there's really nothing anyone could be offended by, unless you happen to be Tom Watson—and he deserves it.

If cartoonists can't be nasty about politicians, what are we for? The job of satire is to discomfort the comfortable and console the weak.

What has gone on here makes a travesty of this sentiment. Apparently fear of a powerful politician's possible reaction has prompted this cowardly editorial decision.

Sadly I don't hear any howls of outrage in defence of free speech as when the target is Muslims.

With the New York Times (international) dropping editorial cartoons entirely and several

veteran cartoonists being sacked for lampooning Trump, these are worrying times. And if you can't laugh in worrying times it's even more worrying!

In my experience editors are not comfortable with cartoons (with the obvious exception of this paper)

Cartoons are too unpredictable, inky and messy!

Freedom of speech is too precious to leave to the liberals to defend.

To the barricades! Throw some ink!

Tim Sanders
East London

More Marxism required Millennials need help, not scapegoating

THIS YEAR'S Socialism conference in Chicago took place against a backdrop of rising racism and attacks on minorities and women in the US.

The demise of the International Socialist Organisation and the takeover of the conference by the Democratic Socialists of America meant that some festival attendees felt important questions were left unanswered.

Although there were many interesting debates on topics from abolition of the police through to the climate emergency, it

lacked any real Marxist critical analysis. It felt more like an intellectual exercise than a tool to build a real revolutionary current.

At this year's Marxism festival in Britain Alex Callinicos discussed the question of whether Leninism matters today.

The Socialism conference demonstrated that this discussion is more important than ever. We must continue to build a revolutionary party which strives for workers' authority.

Hope Ryan
Birmingham

MILLENNIALS ARE the generation who are dismissed as easily offended "snowflakes" by Piers Morgan and the far right.

But while he can afford as many houses as he likes, a new study shows that many millennials may never be able to afford one.

It's ridiculous to think that a whole generation of working class young people will be effectively homeless by the time they retire.

Meanwhile, there are empty buildings and new luxury developments being built every day. It is very easy for the ruling class to

Piers Morgan is a rich hypocrite

use millennials as a scapegoat for the state of society. But the hypocrisy stinks.

While there are regular "second home" MP expenses scandals, we are facing a future with

nowhere to live and living in a present where we are not paid nearly enough in order to be able to change our own situation.

Painting an entire group of people as oversensitive as the establishment so often does, while simultaneously creating a world where they are set up for poverty is disgusting.

More needs to be done to help millennials find homes, in order to ensure a secure future for us. We need to fight for the right to safer, affordable housing.

Hayden Collins
Kingston

Just a thought...

Rebel against the Tories

IT'S BEEN absolutely brilliant to watch Extinction Rebellion activists out on the streets fighting for the climate during the Summer Uprising.

But why aren't they putting more specific demands on the Tories?

I know they claim to be "beyond politics", but surely it's those in Westminster who are standing in the way of "acting now"?

Janet Dyer
East London

Robinson is a jailed fascist

TOMMY ROBINSON is banged to rights. But unfortunately he has a big following who buy his innocence. Anyone who knows about history understands that Robinson is a Nazi.

Gin Putland
Facebook

Zionism is the problem

EQUATING anti-Zionism with antisemitism is a fallacy. I regularly criticise Donald Trump and the Conservative government but it doesn't follow that I have a prejudice against American or British people.

Brian Eggleston
Facebook

All out on 20 September

WE ALL need to take to streets for the climate strike on 20 September.

We are facing the hottest July on record, directly following the hottest June.

The consequences are getting more dire.

Donald Trump and others will continue to deny climate change. But they will not feel the worst effects of it.

It is the poor and vulnerable who will have to deal with it.

Rachel Owen
Liverpool

Food banks shame Tories

I VOLUNTEER at a food bank. But I am disgusted that the school summer holidays are a bumper time for food banks. This growing demand should shame the Tory attacks on our welfare state.

Rob Murray
South Tyneside

TRUMP RESISTING AMERICA’S RACIST PRESIDENT

As Donald Trump dramatically escalates his dangerous racist rhetoric and his vicious assaults on migrants, **Alistair Farrow** spoke to activists in the US about what they’re doing to resist

DONALD TRUMP’S racist filth is at fever pitch. He is now launching openly racist attacks on his political opponents in Congress, calling on them to “go home”.

And his war against migrants and refugees is steaming ahead on multiple fronts. This means militarising the US’s southern border, hunting down undocumented migrants, and overcrowding prisons with people fleeing violence or searching for a better life.

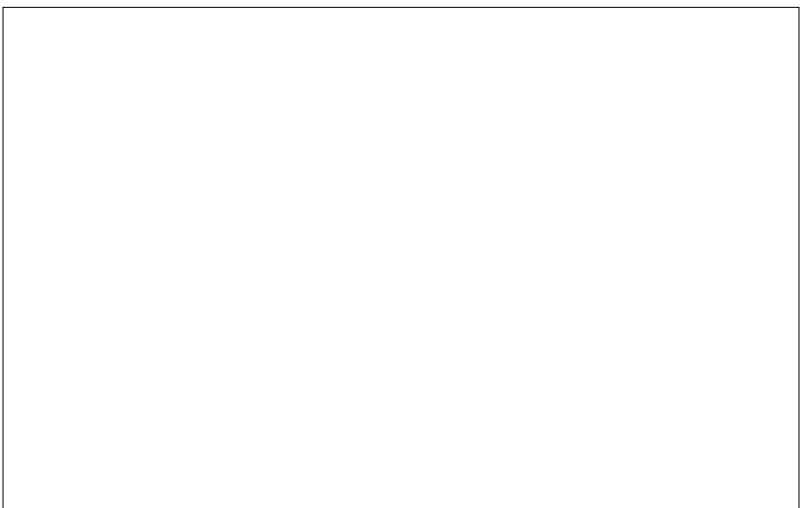
The most recent attack is the administration’s latest attempt to deny people asylum. It means that people will not be able to claim asylum in the US if they have passed through another country without trying to claim asylum there first.

The move will deny tens of thousands of people the right to come to the US legally. The new legislation is illegal under international law.

Those affected are often fleeing the proxy wars of the US, or the attacks of regimes backed to the hilt by the US such as in Honduras.

It will mean that people will increasingly seek to find dangerous illegal routes into the US. It will mean more people will die.

“So-called ‘deterrence’ policies don’t work—rather, they put asylum



TRAPPED IN one of Trump’s border concentration camps

Ramirez and his daughter Valeria drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande river from Mexico to the US. They were fleeing El Salvador, where the US waged a “dirty war” in the 1980s that continues to shape politics there today.

Children have died in detention and frozen to death under bridges, and thousands more people have died trying to cross the border.

Cesspit

Trump has turned the US’s southern border into a killing ground. Even for the racist cesspit that is mainstream US politics, the latest assaults are a new low.

“It feels like every time he goes down a level, people here get more alarmed,” migrants’ rights activist Alicia told Socialist Worker.

Yet there is no telling what depths Trump will plumb.

He has consistently stuck with racism as the primary method of mobilising his supporters. Now with the 2020 presidential elections edging closer, he is ratcheting it up.

Alicia argued that Trump has polarised US politics. “When Trump has his rallies it mobilises his base,” she said. “Trump’s real agenda is to terrorise and terrify.”

A large part of that agenda, which

has seen children torn away from their parents, has been profit. These are boom times for the industries associated with the migrant detention.

Immediately after Trump’s election his racist attorney general Jeff Sessions announced a “zero tolerance policy” on undocumented migrants.

This meant more Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) agents, more Border Patrol guards, and more funding for private prisons. It has also meant a slackening of already lax regulations—easing restrictions on detaining asylum seekers in prisons, for instance.

The private prison companies that backed Trump’s campaign, and shelled out hundreds of thousands for his inauguration celebrations, have seen their stocks skyrocket.

The good news is that people are resisting the onslaught, and are pushing him back.

Trump wanted to get Ice agents to conduct a targeted series of raids in June. Public outrage pushed him back.

Then Ice announced it would be targeting 2,000 undocumented migrants in ten cities across the US from Sunday of last week.

Migrants rights activists protested across the country last week against the crackdown. They effectively

Children in cages is business as usual

Five year-old children are being held in cages at Border Patrol facilities. Diseases such as scabies, chickenpox and shingles are increasingly common.

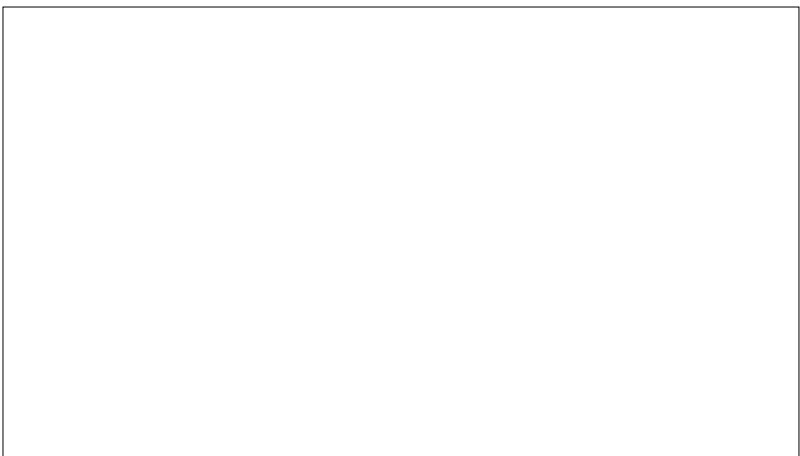
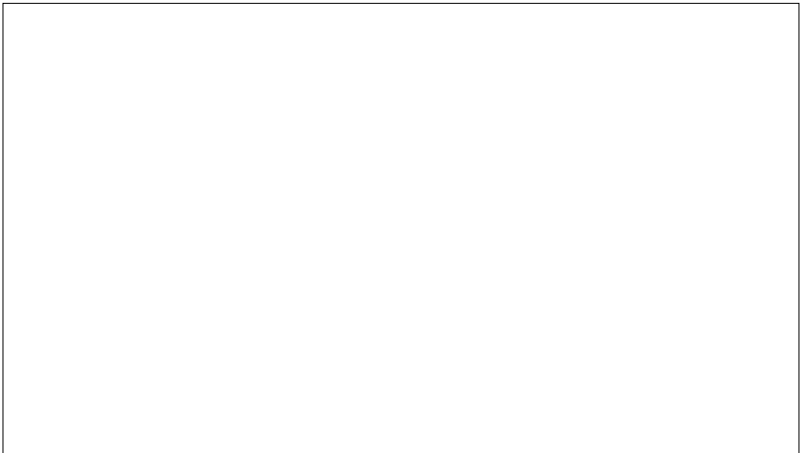
Some detention centres designed to hold 125 people are being used to imprison over 900.

In June the Department for Homeland Security’s own inspectorate said, “Border Patrol agents told us some of the detainees had been held in standing-room-only conditions for days or weeks.”

This is what Trump’s migrant crisis looks like.

Overcrowding such as this is the horrific inevitability of treating migrants and refugees as criminals

It’s a common refrain from politicians and officials that the conditions at the centres are because of a sudden influx of people. But the Border Patrol leadership knew about the conditions for months before the news came out. Its own staff had raised the alarm.



migrants’ rights groups, human rights organisations and socialist parties were behind the protests.

In Washington DC, up to a hundred people blocked all the entrances to the Ice headquarters on Tuesday.

“This is too urgent to ignore. We are taking bold direct action,” said one activist from migrant rights group Never Again in a live broadcast from the headquarters.

“We are calling on our elected officials to do the same, because all they’ve done so far is to give more money to Ice, to the Border Patrol and to detention centres.

“All Nancy Pelosi and the Democratic establishment has done is help this crisis continue.

“We are taking action now to say no. This has gone on far too long.

“We have reached new heights of cruelty and inhumane treatment of immigrants under Trump. But the inhumane treatment of immigrants started far before Trump.

“The process of dehumanisation takes years to build. It was taking place under the Obama administration, which deported 3 million people.”

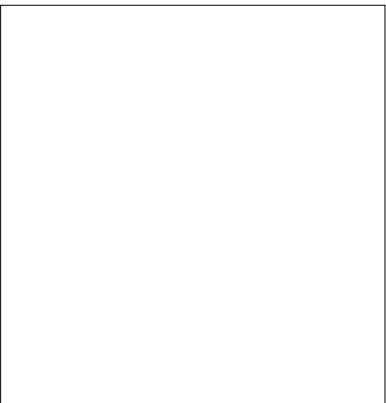
In Denver, Colorado, last Thursday a Never Again Action protested outside the federal building in the city to call on the state’s governor to take a position on the migrant crisis.

“With children detained in unacceptable conditions, raids targeting our communities, and people dying at the border while seeking safety in the US, we are seeing the signs of a mass atrocity,” said a statement from the group. “We refuse to wait and see what happens next.”

In the space of a few days, protesters have mounted a serious challenge to an arm of the state’s repression machine.

It’s a new example to point to—and one which doesn’t involve simply calling on Democratic politicians to pass laws or to make statements.

The protests didn’t end on the Friday, but continued into the next week and beyond. A wide spread of



POLICE ARREST a campaigner against deportations in Phoenix, Arizona, earlier this month (top) **Ice immigration police round up migrants in days that followed Congress Ilhan Omar** (above) **Protests against Ice raids continue** (below)

LEFT ATTACKED

Taking aim at those who do most to defend migrants

TRUMP IS singling out left wing politicians from ethnic minorities to attack personally.

The group is Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib.

Over the weekend of 13 and 14 July Trump tweeted that the group of four women should “go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came.”

He doubled down on 15 July and said, “These are people that hate our country. They hate it, I think, with a passion.”

Of the four Democratic members of congress Trump singles out, one comes under attack more than the others—Ilhan Omar.

This is because Omar wears a headscarf, and because she is the one of the four that is a migrant. It is because she is on the left of the Democrats, and because she is an outspoken critic of the Israeli state and backs the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Trump made this clear in a speech on 17 July in North Carolina.

“Omar has a history of vicious antisemitic screeds,” he said, presumably referring to Omar’s criticism of the state of Israel. Trump wants to deflect criticism of his racism by smearing his opponents, in this case as antisemitic.

The crowds of his supporters assembled at the rally chanted, “Send her back” repeatedly. Trump let this happen uninterrupted, contrary to his later claims.

Disagreement

Omar and others strike a different tone to the established leadership of the Democratic party represented by Nancy Pelosi. This will see important arguments in the run up to the 2020 presidential election over questions such as migrant rights.

Yet there is also disagreement on the left of the Democrats over the extent to which the party should tack left.

For instance, left wing candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are, at best, equivocal over their position over Israel. That puts them to the right of Omar on the question.

It means they do not come running to her defence when she is attacked by both Trump and Pelosi over the question of her support for BDS.

Many commentators have said the North Carolina rally marks a definitive shift in Trump’s politics.

Trump’s rallies are deeply racist and aggressively nationalistic events. Previously his supporters at the rallies have called for the deportation of migrants and screamed for the border wall. Trump and his supporters have also previously called for his opponents to be locked up.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

PORTSMOUTH

60 years on from the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

A rebel's guide to Gramsci

Mon 29 Jul, 6pm,
The Snug,
Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNSELEY

Women's oppression and the media

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Room 302, The Civic,
Hanson St, S70 2HZ

BOLTON

The Portuguese revolution 1974—when workers fought back

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Sudan and Algeria—resistance, revolt and revolution

Thu 25 Jul, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRISTOL

Tiananmen Square—when China was in revolt

Thu 21 Aug, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

The Wall Street Crash 90 years on—why does the system still crash?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

What does a revolution look like?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 29 Aug, 8pm,
Oyster Room, Hythe
Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive, C01 2FG



PRIDE MARCH in London this year

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

50 years since Stonewall... Why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Thu 8 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

LIVERPOOL

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln,
L1 3BT

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,
Central Methodist Hall,
Oldham St, M1 1JQ

NORWICH

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Wed 7 Aug, 7pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

DERBY

Is there a Marxist theory of crisis?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill),
DE22 3BL

DUNDEE

How do Marxists understand class?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

EXETER

After the leadership election—how can we end Tory rule?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
The Exeter peace shop,
31 New Bridge St,
EX4 3AH

GLASGOW

What's happened to working class green spaces?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St, Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

Why we say 'general election now'

Wed 31 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

HULL

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 22 Aug, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

Zombie capitalism—why is the system failing?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?

Thu 31 Jul, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Sq, LS3 1AD

LONDON: HACKNEY

60 years since the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Thu 1 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

The Nakba to the Great March of Return—how can Palestine be free?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd, N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Trump, racism and war—how can he be stopped?

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
Elizabeth House,
2 Hurllock St,
Highbury, N5 1ED

LONDON: NEWHAM

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

Trump, Sanders and the new left in the US

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square),
Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Why we hate Mondays—Marxism and alienation

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffen St, SE8 4RH

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

The refugee crisis—why does capitalism need borders?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
E2 7EG

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Capitalism and species extinction

Wed 24 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NEWCASTLE

Too many people? The myth of overpopulation

Wed 31 Jul, 7pm,
Floor 2, Commercial Union
House, 39 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QE

OXFORD

60 years since the revolution—where is Cuba going?

Wed 7 Aug, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way, OX4 1YH

SOUTHAMPTON

Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 1 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

WIGAN

Tiananmen Square—when China was in revolt

Thu 1 Aug, 7pm,
The Anvil, Dorning St,
WN1 1HE

YORK

Class struggles in Eastern Europe—Hungary 1956

Wed 31 Jul, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

NATIONAL

End austerity now!

Demo at Tory conference,
Sat 29 Sep, 12 noon, Oxford
Road, Manchester.
Called by People's Assembly

NATIONAL

Stand Up To Racism international conference

Sat 19 Oct, 10am
Central London
standuptoracism.org.uk

NATIONAL

Cuba, the Pink Tide and revolution in Latin America

Sat 26 Oct, 2.30pm,
Central London,
Hosted by International
Socialism Journal,
Go to isj.org.uk

DORSET SOCIALISTS

System change not climate change

Sat 3 Aug, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club, Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ

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Edinburgh in August, festival days of fear and resistance

The international rise of the right and polarised politics bleeds into the annual theatre and arts festival in the Scottish capital, writes critic **Mark Brown**

THE EDINBURGH International Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe and their sister summer festivals—such as the Edinburgh International Book Festival—take over Scotland's capital city every August.

Together they amount to the biggest celebration of arts and culture on the planet.

This is a great and exciting thing, of course. However, it can also make deciding what to see a daunting task. This is especially true of the Fringe, the programme for which resembles a telephone directory.

Leon Trotsky's advice—to make cultural judgements based upon "the laws of art", rather than those of politics—is good to bear in mind when choosing from the festival programmes.

Sitting in a theatre, bored to tears, watching a well-intended, but dull, piece of megaphone theatre is a chore.

Personal taste comes into play, too, of course. This said, I hope the following tips will be useful to readers of Socialist Worker.

Intriguing

There are intriguing prospects on the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) programme. These include **La Reprise Histoire(s) du theatre (I)** (Lyceum, 3-5 August), by director Milo Rau and theatre company the International Institute of Political Murder.

Rau has received international acclaim for his theatre documentaries about conflicts and other traumatic events.

La Reprise is a response to a murder case in Belgium. It also promises to pose powerful questions about the representation of such events in our culture, both as documentary fact and as fiction.

Also at the EIF, brilliantly innovative theatremaker Tim Crouch offers **Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation** (The Studio, 7-25 August), perhaps as a response to human survival

The festivals amount to the biggest celebration of arts and culture on the planet



anxiety. Crouch casts himself as a manipulator, somewhat like a cult leader, in what is bound to be a fascinating piece about the relationship between performer and audience.

Interestingly, as part of the huge Fringe programme, **The Desk** (Summerhall, 31 July-25 August), by Finnish director Reetta Honkakoski, is also about cults. Honkakoski herself has direct personal experience of a cult, which she has channelled into this entirely wordless, physical theatre piece.

A teacher and five students are locked into a highly regimented and hierarchical micro-society.

Also on the Fringe, leading US

author, actor and Pulitzer Prize finalist Dael Orlandersmith performs **Until the Flood** (Traverse, 1-25 August). The piece is her response to the killing of black teenager Michael Brown by white police officer Darren Wilson in Missouri in 2014, and to the Black Lives Matter movement that followed it.

Unsurprisingly, given that Donald Trump is in the White House and Jair Bolsonaro has control of much of the Amazon rainforest, there is a great deal of existential angst on the Fringe this year.

In **Quintessence** (Sweet Novotel, 12-25 August) excellent actor Emily Carding brings us a one-woman show about a



A SCENE from La Reprise, directed by Milo Rau (left) and the cast of Die! Die! Die! Old People Die! (above)

post-extinction human society. Inspired by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the piece finds humanity being restarted by Artificial Intelligence with only the complete works of Shakespeare as a guide to the human soul.

To Move in Time (Summerhall, 19-24 August) is by the always interesting Tim Etchells of avant-garde English performance company Forced Entertainment.

It considers time travel from both philosophical and moral standpoints. Performed by actor Tyrone Huggins, it will, inevitably, be a million miles from Doctor Who.

Shifting

Die! Die! Die! Old People Die! (Summerhall, 13-25 August) is a bleakly comic and futuristic consideration of shifting demographics by the London-based theatremakers Ridiculusmus (aka David Woods and Jon Haynes). Expect a very funny, and dark, satire of the politics of ageing.

Finally, if you need some light relief, the French Bard Molière's play **Tartuffe** (Assembly Rooms, 1-25 August) is a brilliant and hilarious satire of religious hypocrisy. This version, written in Scots-English by the leading Scottish writer Liz Lochhead, is an absolute treat. It also boasts a fine cast from Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Theatre Company.

That should be enough to be going on with.

Don't forget to pack an umbrella. It is Scotland in summer after all.

For more information on the Edinburgh Fringe, go to www.edfringe.com

For more information on the Edinburgh International Festival, go to eif.co.uk

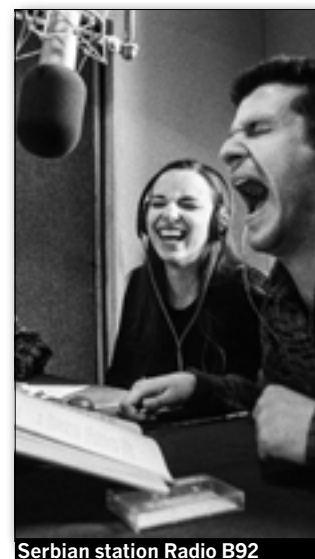
EXHIBITION

REBEL SOUNDS

At the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ
Until 5 January 2020
Go to iwm.org.uk

THIS IS an opportunity to discover artists who have risked their lives in times of conflict for the music and culture they love.

From Adolf Hitler's persecution of swing and jazz groups to the banning of music in Northern Mali under Islamist rule in 2012, people have fought to express themselves in the harshest of conditions. They have faced down the



Serbian station Radio B92

most vicious repression.

This exhibition features four unique stories of resistance.

It uses personal accounts, photographs, memorabilia and music to do this. They include items from Nazi Germany in the 1930s, Northern Ireland in the 1970s, Serbia in the 1990s and exiled musicians Songhoy Blues from present day Mali.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- System Change Not Climate Change**
Martin Empson (ed)
- This is Not a Drill**
Various Authors
- A Rebel's Guide to Alexandra Kollontai**
Emma Davis
- The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx**
Alex Callinicos
- Notes on Nationalism**
George Orwell

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

LOVE ISLAND is set to finish next week, leaving fans bereft of their nightly dose of contestants coupling up, turning each other's heads and dumping each other.

The smash hit show draws in millions of viewers each night.

But more than just providing watercooler moments, the success of Love Island and dating programmes like it tell us something about human sexuality under capitalism.

The seven week-long programme sees ultra-fit, highly glamorous people compete for a £50,000 prize.

The catch? They can only win it by being voted the "best couple" by the public.

So there's the cut-throat "coupling up" ceremony where contestants who aren't chosen are unceremoniously booted out of the villa.

And contestants know they're being watched by constant surveillance. So they have to display their affections—genuine or otherwise—convincingly enough at all points.

One challenge saw the women exercising wearing Playboy-style bunny outfits. Another saw the men compete in a "lad challenge".

We are told to live up to these bizarre and objectified images of sexuality—and that extends to presenting ourselves to potential partners in these terms.

For a huge number of people, looking for a relationship is done through dating apps or messaging on a website. In Britain, seven million people are registered on dating sites with around one in three relationships now starting online.

Consumer

This "dating industry"—encompassing over 1,500 apps and websites, is produced by a society where everything can be bought or sold.

And individuals become not just the consumer, but part of the product.

So the eHarmony website will reject anyone it believes has been married too many times or any user whose questionnaire answers indicate they're depressed.

Something that feels so personal and so important to us is decided by computer algorithms and bosses looking to increase their in-app purchases.

Under capitalism, parts of our human nature are repackaged and sold back to us.

Karl Marx didn't take on the question of eHarmony or Love Island, but his writings help give activists a framework for understanding the world today.

He argued that under capitalist society, working class people have very little control. And because workers lose control of their lives, themselves



OBJECTIFIED IMAGES of women are beamed into our homes

HOW OUR BODIES ARE SOLD TO US

Capitalism robs us of our individuality and then attempts to sell a pale imitation of it back to us in a sick bid to profit off the insecurities class society produces, writes Sarah Bates



Gwyneth Paltrow makes money off people's insecurities

and specifically their labour it creates distorted relationships between individuals.

Marx said that people are encouraged to connect with others primarily through the buying and selling of commodities.

And, rather than capitalism nourishing and developing people, it converts all our needs and abilities into a means of making money.

It can be easy to see how bosses make profits off the



24 percent of young people say TV makes them worry about body image

most basic human needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

But what about our needs that are sometimes more difficult to articulate?

The "wellness industry" is a good example. It sees luxury brands flog meditation retreats, spa packages and crystals so people can buy the ability to be healthy in mind, body and spirit.

Millionaire actor Gwyneth Paltrow is in on the act.

She offers "cutting edge

wellness" through her highly lucrative Goop brand. This flogs a "10 day detox supplement kit" that promises "a cleanse that has never been so easy to swallow."

Or for instance, the businesses that have sprung up around the human need to connect with nature.

One such firm offers a "forest bathing" retreat where guests can enjoy the "medicine of nature" in a luxury cabin complete with hot tub, coffee machine and flat screen television.

When every human need and desire can be reduced

to a product, it's no surprise there's a huge market structured around the sex and sexuality.

Corporate fatcats and advertising bosses are happy to use the idea of sex—and women's bodies in particular—to sell completely unrelated commodities.

And in these adverts, women are constantly the objects of desire, but never seen with any sexual agency.

For some, this sexual objectification is so natural, it's actually hard wired into our brains.

"Men's brains are designed to objectify females" argue the authors of Billion Dirty Thoughts.

They write that for men, desire lies in the "shape and curves" of women's bodies that "indicate how many years of childbearing remain".

But this ignores the huge variant in human sexual behaviour, including LGBT+ relationships, older partnerships, those who don't want children and so on.

Contestants on Love Island obsess about whether their partners match up to "my type on paper".

But sexual identity and behaviour often changes through a person's lifetime.

And it's hardly a celebration of different sexual identities and body shapes.

Maura, one this year's contestants, came under ridicule from fellow Islanders for even discussing sex too much.

In some ways the contestants even look interchangeable—small thin women and big muscly men with very little deviation from this norm.

Worry

It's not surprising that a Mental Health Foundation survey showed 24 percent of young people said reality television made them worry about body image.

Richard Cowles, Love Island boss responded to complaints. "Yes, we want to be as representative as possible but we also want them to be attracted to each other", he said.

So, television bosses think

only people whose bodies they judge to meet a supposed ideal are permitted to have and act on sexual desires.

For socialists, how people form relationships and express their sexuality is profoundly shaped by how society functions and the dominant ideas in it.

Marx argued that “individual, family and social needs were subordinated to the market and reshaped in order to serve the needs of capital”.

One of the easiest ways to see this is through the lens of the nuclear family unit which plays a vital role in regulating relationships and sexuality.

There is enormous pressure to conform to a stereotypical ideal family, with two parents in a stable and seemingly perfect relationship raising children.

TODAY, women perform most of the childrearing and domestic labour for free. It suits those at the top of society for women to continue performing this role.

And modern society piles yet more pressures on women. For many working class women it is necessary to get a job as well as being forced to provide free childcare. Yet when they find work it is more often badly paid, and worse paid than jobs done by men.

But does this set-up suit working class people?

Under capitalism, ordinary people often don't get much of a say about how their lives are run. They might not be able to afford to leave a relationship, or be able to care for the children by themselves.

Or maybe people don't have the time to invest in multiple relationships. So regardless of how people see it in their heads, their real life conditions shape their ability to form romantic and sexual connections.

Longer working hours, cuts to benefits and worse accommodation also shapes opportunities for sex and relationships.

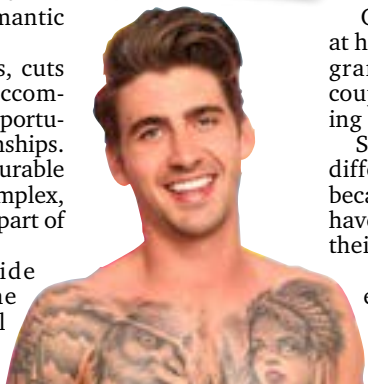
Ultimately, sex is pleasurable and the ability to form complex, intimate, relationships is part of what makes us human.

Relationships provide joy and support in the face of an often cruel world. And for the first time, advances in



Capitalism distorts human relations, and even our relationship with our own bodies, to suit its own ideological and economic needs—see expensive ‘wellness’ treatments (top).

People are encouraged to achieve “perfect” bodies, and even to scrutinise people’s weight gain while pregnant (below)



Chris, a Love Island contestant

contraception mean that sex can be reliably separated from childbirth.

Do we live in sexually liberated society now? Does Love Island flow from the demands of socialists and feminists for a more open attitude to sex?

It's actually the opposite—it reflects how society regulates sexuality, and only represents a narrow distortion of human sexuality.

It's not a welcome development that men's bodies are sexualised alongside women—the aim is not equal objectification but none at all.

Love Island is popular partly because it's genuinely entertaining, and people are interested in how relationships work.

Permeates

The point isn't to decide which television programmes or website pass a hypothetical test about how politically pure they are.

But rather to look at how capitalism permeates into every area of our life—taking all our desires and making money off them.

So bosses can sell us subscription fees to dating services based on how we can find our “soulmate”.

Or entice us to spend hours at home watching a reality programme about other people coupling up rather than meeting anyone ourselves.

Sex and sexuality would be different in a socialist society because ordinary people would have a say over themselves and their lives.

It would be a world where everyone has the choice, the ability and the freedom to live exactly as they choose.



Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

READ MORE

● **The Hite Report** by Shere Hite

● **An introduction to Marx's theory of alienation** by Judy Cox bit.ly/CoxAlienation

● **Sexuality, alienation and capitalism** by Sheila McGregor bit.ly/CapitalistSexuality

BOOK REVIEW

The criminal legacy of the London Olympics

A new book exposes the corruption and dodgy deals behind the 2012 Olympic Games in London, writes **Simon Basketter**

A TOXIC cloud drifted towards the London 2012 Olympics closing ceremony from a fire at a recycling yard.

It didn't disrupt the games, but it was close.

The waste from the building work for the Olympics was recycled at Hunt's Waste.

Davey Hunt, or the Long Fella as he was known, ran a gangster dry-cleaning criminal empire—and was cashing in on redevelopment.

There were fortunes to be made on Olympic redevelopment and the crooks were in on it at every level.

Michael Gillard's startling new book lifts the rock on the violence and corruption that let him do it.

The cops predicted the games would present “serious organised criminals with a range of money-making opportunities”. On that, they were right.

Organised crime owned a lot of the “Silvertown Strip” in east London's Canning Town. It was sitting on valuable real estate.

Fraudster

Billy Allen, a fraudster and police informer, said he owned the land. Chick Matthews and his son, friends of Hunt, used the land.

Allen fought in the courts and so did Hunt—literally. One day Hunt's men casually strolled into the court, when they left the walls and floors were splattered with blood after they beat Allen's minders to pulp.

Despite CCTV, no one was prepared to testify—so no prosecution.

Gillard points out that the police often “retire” cops they no longer want or trust. Corruption investigations are more complex.

In Newham, cops uncovered a scandal involving murder, freemasonry and deals which the Met and the council were

DAVEY HUNT made a fortune from the London Olympics



trying to suppress. The council's enforcement division contracts were run by former cops.

One contractor was murdered. A Met detective was suspected of involvement in preventing corrupt colleagues from being exposed. He retired.

An internal council report in 2005 found “the scale of payments” left Newham council “vulnerable to allegations of corruption”.

In 2006 Danny McGuinness was arrested for using his cover as a council contractor to steal luxury cars.

Detectives found over £1 million in stolen goods. The cops also raided a scrap metal business on the land Matthews had won with Hunt.

The council's enforcement division warned the cops of the “potential ramifications” of the trials dragging government departments into the scandal.

Prosecutors were told the cops were under investigation for corruption. Both

Matthews and McGuinness' trials were abandoned.

The detectives were investigated for five years before being cleared and paid compensation.

Hunt's gang initially grew alongside far right football hooligans in the 1980s.

They gave West Ham's Inter-City Firm the security contracts for raves and clubs so they could control the drugs flow.

Dodgy

West Ham Football Club ended up with the former Olympic stadium, and Gillard describes in detail the more respectable dodgy deals that let that happen. There are some in Newham council who will read the book with trepidation.

When the right wanted to lead a protest march against the club last year, Hunt arranged a meeting.

He met with David Sullivan, the pornographer and football club owner, and the Football Lads Alliance-backing, Inter-City Firm veteran, Andy Swallow to get the march called off.

As it happens, David Sullivan lent Davey Hunt £1 million to pursue that legal case.

Hunt sued Michael Gillard for libel for some of the revelations in the book. Hunt lost—and Gillard has kept a low public profile ever since.

The smell of a toxic cloud can linger.

Legacy—Gangsters, Criminals and the London Olympics by Michael Gillard is out on 25 July and is £18.99

Unions demand Ruskin boss backs down

TEN LEADERS of trade unions have written to Ruskin College asking it to drop all disciplinary proceedings against workers and withdraw redundancy threats. They include general secretaries of the FBU, NUJ, NEU, UCU, Napo, Bfawu, PCS, POA and RMT.

Bosses have gone to war on workers and students at the Oxford college. Management dismissed UCU union membership secretary Lee Humber on Friday of last week.

Lee was suspended in March after the branch delivered a vote of no confidence in principal Paul Di Felice.

Now bosses plan to make four other members of the UCU branch committee redundant by the end of the month.

Attack

Lee told Socialist Worker, "As we've always said, the attack on me was the first stage of an attack on the union."

Workers at Ruskin passed the no confidence motion to try and protect students and education. Now bosses are targeting students too. "One



PROTESTING FOR education in Oxford in May

PICTURE: REINSTATE DR LEE HUMBER

of the features of all this has been the cruelty of the management," said Lee.

"Since I was suspended, students in health and social work have refused to be taught by anyone else. The response from the college has been to get somebody in to remark their last assignment.

"They have all been

failed. And they've not been allowed to complete the year and complete a foundation degree."

The attacks on the union are part of a bigger agenda to undermine working class education at Ruskin College.

The threat now is that the college, which runs TUC accredited courses, will be

sold off or merged. One rep said that far from upholding workers' rights, Ruskin bosses have "hounded out" many workers.

"Staff turnover is incredible," they said. "Just this week, two people have left."

"Bosses want a pliant and obedient workforce. They hope to get that by putting

everyone on precarious contracts, and when they speak out they will just drop them.

"Ruskin uses the badge of trade unionism to get trade—so unions send their reps to get educated here."

Lee added, "When I started at Ruskin three years ago there were something like 70 members of staff.

"By the end of the month there will be approximately 17 left.

Threatening

Lee said that if the attacks go ahead, higher education will "finish" at Ruskin. Social work courses could continue, but they are also under threat as a number of workers are threatening to resign if the redundancies go through.

"The plan is, as far as we can work out, that Felice never wanted the college to stay independent," said Lee. "He will look to merge or sell it off.

"The other possibility is that, because Ruskin is in prime real estate land, maybe they'll sell the land off."

Lee plans to appeal his dismissal. He described how

many of the allegations against him "openly referred to trade union activity".

But he stressed that there is a much bigger battle going on at Ruskin—and that it is one for the whole trade union movement.

"Our strength is based on the collective strength of workers at Ruskin and those outside who support us," said Lee.

"The UCU nationally has been dead good. Now we need a very public campaign to save Ruskin and sack Felice.

"For Ruskin to survive in any recognisably working class shape, the leaders of the trade union movement need to devise something else.

"Big unions are not short of a bob or two. They need to say we're not going to let this go—it's ours."

Send messages of protest to the principal at pfelice@ruskin.ac.uk and to Doug Nicholls, chair of the Ruskin College Board of Directors, at dnicholls@ruskin.ac.uk. Send messages of support to the chair of Ruskin College UCU at dmcdermott@ruskin.ac.uk and sign the petition at bit.ly/reinstateLee

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All out strikers want to take contractors to the cleaners

Catering and cleaning staff at a government department in the capital have walked out and say they won't go back till they get what they want. Nick Clark talked to pickets about their fight

THE STRUGGLES of the cleaners and caterers at this government office in central London should resonate with low-paid people everywhere.

They work exhausting jobs at difficult hours for unsympathetic managers that want to squeeze every last drop out of them. For their efforts they get paid a wage that barely covers the basic necessities.

They don't even get proper holiday or sick pay.

What makes these workers different is that they've decided to do something about it. They've walked off the job—and say they won't go back until they get what they want.

"We've been living in poverty—no-one's listening to us," one worker, Novelette, told a rally last Thursday. "We're out indefinitely so that they understand we're not backing down."

These are the PCS union members at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis). They're employed by two outsourcers, ISS and Aramark, who pay them just £9 an hour.

And since last week they've been on strike, fighting for 28 days holiday, better sick pay, and the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour.

One striker, caterer Maria, told Socialist Worker what life on £9 an hour is like.

"Some months we get less than £1,000 after tax. We have to be very clever to make that enough for the month," she said. "Bills go up every year. My council tax goes up every year, my travel card goes up every year."

"If I need to spend a little bit more on anything I have to use my credit card. That's the way we live."

Everybody on the picket gives a similar reason for being on strike. For



STRIKERS MARCHING in London last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

kitchen assistant Joseph, the current low wages mean "you have to be in debt all the time."

"It's difficult to manage our lives," he said. "Train fare costs me about £50 a week. I have family, I have kids. I have family back home in Ghana."

For others, such as Kate, a wage of £10.55 an hour "would mean I can afford the things I need, and a proper holiday for me and my son every year."

Roman, a cleaner, explained how

a recent change from monthly to fortnightly pay ended with workers going an extra two weeks without wages.

This situation led the PCS to set up a "foodbank" out of its office in the Beis building to help those workers who were out of pocket.

"I know of someone who came to the union, saying, 'I can't tell the landlord I can't pay because the company isn't paying us,'" said Roman.

For some of the strikers going on an indefinite strike was a daunting prospect. But many more said that, after a series of smaller strikes since January, this was the only option left.

Joseph said he's ready to stay out until he wins.

"I'm ready for anything—more than ready," he said. "We have to make some sacrifices. But until they say yes to our demands, I'm ready to stay out."

Workers in fear of getting ill and taking their time off

SICK PAY—or the lack of it—comes up time and again on the picket line. Workers fear getting ill because they know staying off sick means going unpaid.

One striker, Merline, told Socialist Worker she was off sick recently and didn't get paid for a week. Another, Ana, tells of a colleague who broke his foot and hasn't had any pay.

Strikers say they have to work at least a half day before they get any pay at all. Even a GP's appointment can lead

to pay being docked—leaving workers feeling as if they have to come in to work when sick.

"Do they prefer me to get more sick to be here to serve them rather than leave, get well and come back and do a proper job?" Asked Ana, a barista. "What matters for them is just making money. So we work in the morning and go to the hospital in the afternoon."

"Our health has to be first. If you're not in good health you can't do your job. But here they don't care."



ISS bosses never have to worry about taking a sick day

For many of the strikers, this is something that symbolises the attitude that ISS and Aramark have towards their workers—and they know it stinks.

Roman complained that "These companies seem to be paying the shareholders and playing the big money game on the stock market."

"After the 2007 financial crash there was this idea that we were all in this together. But it feels like these big companies haven't got the message. Their bank accounts are full—probably in offshore accounts."

'Let's bring everything in-house'

THE STRIKERS' key demand is to be brought back in-house—to be employed directly by Beis on the same pay and conditions as other government workers.

For Joseph, this "would mean the whole world for us". It would mean not only better conditions, but more protection.

It's a demand that unites workers such as cleaners, caterers and maintenance workers in government departments across Britain.

And it's a fight that's spreading.

Other outsourced workers at the Foreign and Commonwealth office in central London are fighting their employer—Interserve—over demands that are almost identical to those at Beis.

Travelled

And cleaners at HMRC tax offices in Merseyside—who also work for ISS—struck for two days last week to demand £10 an hour.

Three of them travelled to London last week to join the Beis strikers on the picket line.

One of them, David, told Socialist Worker, "What they're asking for—we want as well. And we thought we were the only ones who wanted it."

"It feels like we're connected."

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka told strikers, "Whether you're a cleaner in Liverpool, a caterer in Beis or a maintenance worker in the Foreign Office, we demand everyone is brought back in-house, back into the civil service so you can be treated the same as everyone else."

IN BRIEF

Cheers at Sellafield after pay success

STRIKERS AT Sellafield nuclear processing plant in Cumbria are celebrating after winning a pay rise.

The Unite union members held 31 days of strikes. They have now gained a 55p an hour pay rise which will take them up to £9 an hour.

The 180 Unite members, who work as security guards, cleaners, vending, laundry and environmental operatives backed the deal by 79 percent.

Workers are outsourced to Mitie and rejected an initial deal of just £8.45 an hour.

Strikes scheduled at Heathrow airport

OVER 4,000 Unite union members at Heathrow airport were set to strike this Friday and Saturday over pay.

Action by security guards, engineers, passenger service operatives and passenger service drivers could see flights grounded.

Unite says it has been engaging “constructively” and “positively” in talks.

There are further walkouts planned for 5, 6, 23 and 24 August.

Rum deal offered at Diageo drinks firm

WORKERS AT alcohol firm Diageo could be headed for strikes after being offered a rum deal by management.

Over 1,500 Unite and GMB members across Scotland are fighting a 2.5 percent pay rise.

Unite has blasted the firm for its plans for a £150 million “flagship whisky experience” in Edinburgh at the same time as it is offering workers a “derisory pay offer”.

Unite members voted by 95 percent to reject the pay offer.

No gloss on Valspar paint firm bosses

AN OVERTIME ban is set to begin on Monday at paint company Valspar. And workers plan a 48-hour strike from 11 August.

Workers are fighting for underpaid wages for hours worked, which union members say they raised with bosses in 2018.

Some workers are owed thousands in back pay and are “determined to secure a fair settlement”, says their Unite union.

Library vote could bring council to book

LIBRARY STAFF in Bradford, West Yorkshire, will vote in a consultative ballot for industrial action over cuts at the city’s 13 libraries and four museums.

Around 50 Unite union members will be asked if they want a full-scale industrial action ballot in defence of the library and museum service.

HEALTH



HEALTH VISITORS on the picket lines in Lincolnshire

PICTURE: UNITE EAST MIDS ON TWITTER

Health visitors battle for pay in Lincolnshire

HEALTH VISITORS in Lincolnshire have staged three strikes over pay.

The 58 workers, members of the Unite union, are fighting to be paid in line with the NHS Agenda for Change pay scale.

They walked out for 48 hours from last Monday, followed by 24-hour strikes last Friday and Monday of this week.

Strikers planned another 48-hour strike from Thursday this week.

Workers were transferred from the NHS to the county council in October 2017—and have lost more than £2,000 a year as a result.

They have received no increase in pay since being transferred, despite both council and NHS employees

getting wage awards during this period.

Strikers are also fighting downgrading of the health visitors’ status, resulting in fewer staff doing the specialist health visitor role.

Steve Syson, Unite regional officer, said, “We believe it to be the first time that the county’s health visitors have struck in defence of their pay and professional standards.

“We are faced with a local authority more concerned with giving its former chief executive a scandalous £292,000 pay off for a mere six months’ work than paying its own health visitors the rate for the job,” he said.

The health visitors voted by 84 percent to strike over the attacks.

■ **PHARMACY support** workers in NHS Tayside, centred on Dundee, are to stage “continuous” strikes from next month in a long-running dispute over pay grades.

The Unite union said action is set to begin from 19 August.

The union said a “flawed” job evaluation process had led to workers being paid at a lower grade than that to which they were entitled.

■ **CLEANERS IN** the GMB union, employed by outsourcing firm Mitie at St George’s hospital in Tooting, have voted for a strike.

A ballot saw 70 percent vote for action on a 99 percent turnout. **Robert Mouat**

OUTSOURCING

Compass points to strikes in North West England

OUTSOURCED STAFF at three NHS trusts in north west England will strike for pay equality next week unless their employer Compass agrees to match NHS rates.

Unison union members at St Helens and Knowsley teaching hospitals, Blackpool teaching hospitals and Liverpool heart and chest hospitals plan strikes on Wednesday of next week.

Workers at all three trusts produced 100 percent votes for action, on turnouts of between 67 percent and 79 percent.

The workers involved are catering, cleaning, security, portering and reception staff. Most of them are on the national minimum wage of just £8.21 an hour.

But they work alongside colleagues—either directly employed by the NHS or employed by Compass on Tupe “transfer protection” NHS terms—who are paid at least £9.03 an hour.

That 82p an hour difference amounts to a loss of £1,600 a year for full-time workers, says Unison.

“It’s disheartening to work alongside colleagues doing the same job who are getting

paid more than you,” says St Helens hospital porter Donovan Rowe.

“It’s affecting staff morale and creating a divide between staff on NHS contracts and the rest of us. We do the same jobs and it’s only right that we get the same pay.

“I’m working weekend and night shifts, but unlike my NHS colleagues, don’t earn any extra for doing these.”

As well as a higher pay rate, staff employed on NHS Agenda for Change terms receive unsocial hours payments and better sick pay.

But without these, says Donovan, “At times I’ve worked 45 hours of overtime a month just to get by. If we got the pay rise, I would be able to work my contracted hours every week and have more time to spend with my family.”

Unison regional organiser Lisa Walsh says Compass made £1.7 billion profit last year.

“The company should put their hands into their pockets and find the 82p per hour that would make little difference to profits but would be a help to workers in St Helens, Blackpool and Liverpool,” she said.

LOW PAY



HEALTH WORKERS in the GMB union in west London held protests over low pay last week

TRANSPORT

RAIL

WORKERS ON the East Midlands Train line struck last Saturday against attacks on their pay and working conditions.

The line is franchised out to Stagecoach. The RMT union accuses the firm of “cutting and running” before it ends its contract.

Stagecoach has been forced to give up its franchises after the government banned it from holding further contracts. Stagecoach tried to duck paying its share of staff pensions.

Strikers have been forced to endure Stagecoach bosses snubbing negotiations, as the RMT blasts the company’s “scorched earth” approach.

Workers were set to strike again this Saturday and 3 August.

BUSES

THE UNITE union has suspended strikes by around 900 bus drivers after a new pay offer on Monday.

Strikes at First South Yorkshire would have hit Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and part of the Derbyshire Dales.

Unite regional officer Phil Bown said, “We held further talks with the management and an improved offer was made which we will now be balloting our members on. We are recommending that they accept this new package.

“As a result, the two strikes have been suspended and members will work normally.

“We won’t be revealing the terms of the offer until our members have had an opportunity to consider and vote on it.”

OBITUARY

Mike Heaney 1954-2019

REVOLUTIONARY socialist Mike Heaney sadly died last week after four months in hospital with leukaemia. He was 65.

Birmingham-born Mike was a member of the Socialist Workers Party for around 30 years. He was recruited when a NASUWT teaching union representative in Derby in the mid 1990s.

He moved to Sheffield in 2011 where he remained a much respected party activist.

Mike initially qualified as a mechanical engineer after leaving school. He spent two years in the navy before realising the military life was not for him. Aged 28, he



Mike Heaney

started teaching at John Port school in Derby. He stayed for 20 years and as school union rep led many battles over pay and conditions.

Mike loved talking politics and leading off branch meetings, tackling almost any subject. He played an important role in helping shape the activities and interventions

of the Sheffield SWP district, particularly around fighting racism and fascism.

As fellow Baggies fans—that’s supporters of West Bromwich Albion football club to you—we enjoyed hours discussing the club’s fortunes.

From his hospital bed he kept up with latest political news. And he never lost his anger at the Tories, Donald Trump and Nigel Farage. He took special pleasure in seeing Tommy Robinson defeated in the European elections.

Sheffield comrades send love and condolences to Mike’s partner Fiona and all his family.

● Mike’s funeral is on Tuesday 30 July at 1pm at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium in Sheffield.

Phil Turner

EDUCATION

‘We’re proud of our fight,’ say John Roan strikers

by MIRIAM SCHARF

THE NEU union’s picket line at The John Roan School last week was still lively on the last of 20 days of strikes since May 2018.

Workers have been fighting against academisation. They successfully fought off one Multi Academy Trust (Mat), but the United Learning Trust (ULT) is due to take over on 31 August.

A last hope is that the John Roan charitable foundation that founded the school 342 years ago will find that their aims and objectives forbid it being given to a private company.

NEU rep Kirstie said, “We are extremely proud that we fought this injustice, exposing every step of the way the corporate model for education.”

Workers are clear they are facing a difficult future. ULT has cut sick pay for support staff and is offering only statutory leave in some of their schools.

There is concern over how standardised pre-written assessments are used in all 71 schools in the Mat, and a behaviour policy “that silences children”.

Jane, another NEU rep, was already talking about fighting the ULT’s appraisal policy. Another teacher said, “We will still be fighting next term.”

Terry Edwards, a supporter from Campaign for the Advancement for State Education, said, “It’s been a magnificent struggle.



JOAN ROAN workers striking in May

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

“It has to continue if and when ULT come, to ensure that children get an education that the community can be proud of, unlike the restricted and vindictive regime that exists in many ULT schools.”

Strikers felt badly let down by Labour-run Greenwich council for not backing them.

Parent Anni said, “It’s completely ironic to hand the keys over to a trust when there will almost certainly be a general election later this year. I am happy this will be overturned when there is a Labour government.”

Only schools failing Ofsted inspection can legally be forced to academise. That John Roan workers

fought forced academisation has been inspiring. Parent Stephanie said she had learnt, that “collectively people can achieve so much”.

“We saw off one Mat, we worked so well together,” she said. “I wasn’t a political activist but this has made me passionate about standing up and fighting.”

FOOD PRODUCTION

Food workers Karro on fighting for pay

WORKERS AT Karro food production plant in Hull walked out on strike for the second Monday in a row over pay and conditions.

It follows a walkout from Karro workers in north Yorkshire earlier this month.

One picket who had worked at the factory for many years said conditions were the worst he’d ever seen.

A member of the strike committee said that people were joining the GMB union, including some of the agency workers who make up over half the workforce.

A solidarity rally was held on the large and determined picket line, and addressed by local union officials, GMB members and members of Hull and district Trades Council.

Picketing successfully persuaded some delivery lorries not to cross the picket lines. One picket explained how the action had stopped most of the production lines.

Wendy Dobbs

Sainsbury sick pay battle rages on

WORKERS AT Sainsbury’s Waltham Point distribution centre in Essex were set to hold a second 24-hour strike on Thursday this week.

The Usdaw union members are fighting changes to the attendance policy which are being unilaterally implemented by the company.

Nigel Scully, Usdaw divisional officer said, “The company’s changes mean that our members, including many who have given significant years’ service, could quickly end up without any sick pay.”

UNIVERSITIES

More strikes on table at Birmingham university

WORKERS AT Birmingham university ended a buoyant two-day strike on Wednesday of last week. The Unison union members are fighting for all staff to get the Living Wage.

The two-day strike followed a walkout on 28 June and coincided with graduation days.

Union members plan more strikes in September if the dispute isn’t resolved.

The Unison branch said, “We already know that members have turned to food banks to feed their families.

“Many low paid staff only work 15 hours per week and often hold several jobs to make ends meet.”

The branch rejected a

non-consolidated one-off payment of 1 percent, or £100 if that was greater, for 2018-19.

But university bosses imposed the offer.

Before last week’s strike, bosses made a new consolidated offer for 2019-20 of 1 percent to 1.2 percent.

But union rep Rick Tudor said, “We still don’t have a decent offer in relation to the current pay round and still no offer on becoming foundation living wage accredited.

“We will be continuing our campaign over the summer to keep the pressure up and we’re planning further action for September.”

COLLEGES

Nottingham college fight

THE UCU union at Nottingham College plans 15 days of strikes from September in a battle over contracts. Union members unanimously backed the plans at a meeting earlier this month.

The contracts would leave over 80 workers more than £1,000 a year worse off. They would also cut holiday and sick pay, and remove an agreement on workload.

The union has denounced the “deplorable tactic” of college bosses threatening to dismiss workers who refuse to sign up to the contracts.

The series of strikes will kick off with a 24-hour walkout on Wednesday 11 September. UCU members will then stage two, three, four and five-day strikes in the following weeks.

WEST LONDON

Turning up Furness heat

NEU UNION members at Furness primary school in north London struck for half a day on Thursday of last week. Workers have accused head teacher Sylvia Libson of a “bullying management style”.

A statement from NEU members said, “There are 11 different complaints against Ms Libson and morale is at an all time low.”

The school has agreed to an independent investigation into the complaints. The NEU said workers would “continue to strike” until it knew who was investigating.

Brent NEU secretary Lesley Gouldbourne said, “Members are not convinced it is independent so we are holding a half-day strike.”

The school formed a Multi Academy Trust in March 2016.

POST



Striking at Ivybridge

Walkout over ‘bully’ boss

POSTAL WORKERS at a Royal Mail delivery office in Devon walked out on unofficial strike on Wednesday of last week.

The members of the CWU union in Ivybridge, near Plymouth, struck after allegations of bullying from their manager.

The strike was the latest in a series of walkouts over bullying and harassment at Royal Mail workplaces

across Britain. Royal Mail wants its workers to take on increased workloads.

CWU general secretary Dave Ward supported the strike in Ivybridge. He said the union would “never cower” to bullying behaviour.

A motion at the CWU’s annual conference earlier this year said workers could strike against issues including “a growing toxic culture” in the workplace.

SAY NO TO WAR AGAINST IRAN

by NICK CLARK

THE US and Britain escalated their threats of a new war in the Middle East last week, after Iran retaliated against their attempts to bully it into submission.

Tory foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt warned of “serious consequences” if Iran refused to release a captured British-flagged oil tanker.

The US is also trying to launch an international naval force in the Gulf, a stretch of ocean off Iran’s coast.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp seized the ship, the Stena Impero, on Friday of last week.

It said it wouldn’t release it until Britain released one of Iran’s tankers seized in the Mediterranean two weeks previously.

Cooperation

British Marines invaded it near Gibraltar, working in cooperation with the US.

Britain claims the Iranian oil tanker was in breach of European Union (EU) sanctions preventing the sale of

IRAN SEIZED the British-flagged tanker Stena Impero in the Mediterranean last week

oil to Syria.

But Iran said the tanker wasn’t bound for Syria, and that it is not in any case party to the sanctions as it is not part of the EU.

In reality Britain’s seizure of the tanker is part of an escalating confrontation with Iran—driven by US president Donald Trump.

Trump is escalating threats

against Iran in an attempt to maintain the US’s dominance in the Middle East.

US economic sanctions imposed on Iran last year have caused misery for

ordinary Iranian people.

They have driven up the costs of basic foodstuffs and caused a shortage of life saving medicines.

More recently the US

announced plans to send 1,000 more soldiers to the Middle East in preparation for war.

In the past weeks Britain has sent extra warships to the Gulf, while the US has sent soldiers to Saudi Arabia.

Boasted

Trump boasted last Friday after a US warship allegedly shot down an Iranian drone, which he said was “the latest of many provocative and hostile actions by Iran.”

Iran’s deputy foreign minister Abbas Araqchi said this never happened.

Hunt’s warning of “serious consequences” was his second threat in two weeks.

He also said there would be “serious consequences” if Iran began enriching uranium, which could be used to develop nuclear missiles.

Yet he has been criticised by right wingers, who claim he has failed to defend British shipping.

Whichever Tory ends up as foreign secretary after their leadership election ends this week, they will follow the US’s drive towards war.

HISTORY

The West and the Middle East—anti-imperialism, revolt and repression

FOR THE first half of the twentieth century, Britain controlled Iran’s oil through what is now known as BP.

The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) was 51 percent British-owned.

The royal Shahs who controlled the Iranian government were in Britain’s pocket.

Between the Iranian government and the AIOC, all trade unions and political opponents were brutally suppressed.

Anti-colonial revolt saw Mohammad Mossadeq appointed to prime minister in 1951.

He nationalised

the AIOC, striking a humiliating blow to the British Empire.

Labour prime minister Clement Attlee considered military action, but decided against it.

This was largely due to US disapproval.

The US decided to replace Britain as the dominant power in the Middle East.

But the Communist Tudeh party was gaining support in Iran, so the US organised a coup to replace Mossadeq.

It took two attempts, but the CIA managed to replace Mossadeq with his leading opponent, army

general Fazlollah Zahedi.

They then went on to funnel £2 million into Zahedi’s government and made Iran their base for operations throughout the region.

The CIA also trained Iran’s new secret police, the Savak, which killed and tortured thousands of Iranians.

US companies benefited from the carve up of Iran’s booming oil industry.

But vast numbers of ordinary Iranians stayed in poverty.

This led to a revolution in 1979 which eventually saw the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini.

People rebelled against US involvement in the region.

In response the US backed then Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Iran.

The war that followed lasted eight years and led to 300,000 Iranian deaths.

The US has continued to oppose Iran’s government in the years since.

This is only partly because of their distaste for Iran’s policies. More than that, they hate that Iran refuses to accept US imperialist rule.

Now the US backs Israel and Saudi Arabia against Iran.

Revolution in Iran 1979